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Contemporary art presented to the Montana State University School of Fine Arts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Five pieces of contemporary art by one of the last remaining primitive cultures in the world have been presented to the Montana State University School of Fine Arts.

The articles are a gift of Cedric H. Marks of New York City. Marks has sponsored several expeditions to New Guinea to collect art objects of anthropological and ethnographic interest.

The pieces are representative of Sepik River, Karawa, Abelan, Burui, Papua and Hawrissa cultures in New Guinea. It is believed the pieces have religious significance, according to Dr. Joan Smith, assistant professor of art history at MSU.

The objects include two carved wood figures, a carved wood canoe, a highly decorated wood shield containing the figure of a face and a woven reed basket.

A graduate student in art will be assigned to learn more about the objects, their origin and purposes, Dr. Smith said.

Plans are to display the pieces for the first time in an exhibit this fall, according to Dean Charles Bolen, of the School of Fine Arts. The school feels very fortunate to have received these pieces and they are the first three-dimensional art pieces owned by the School of Fine Arts, Dean Bolen said.

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